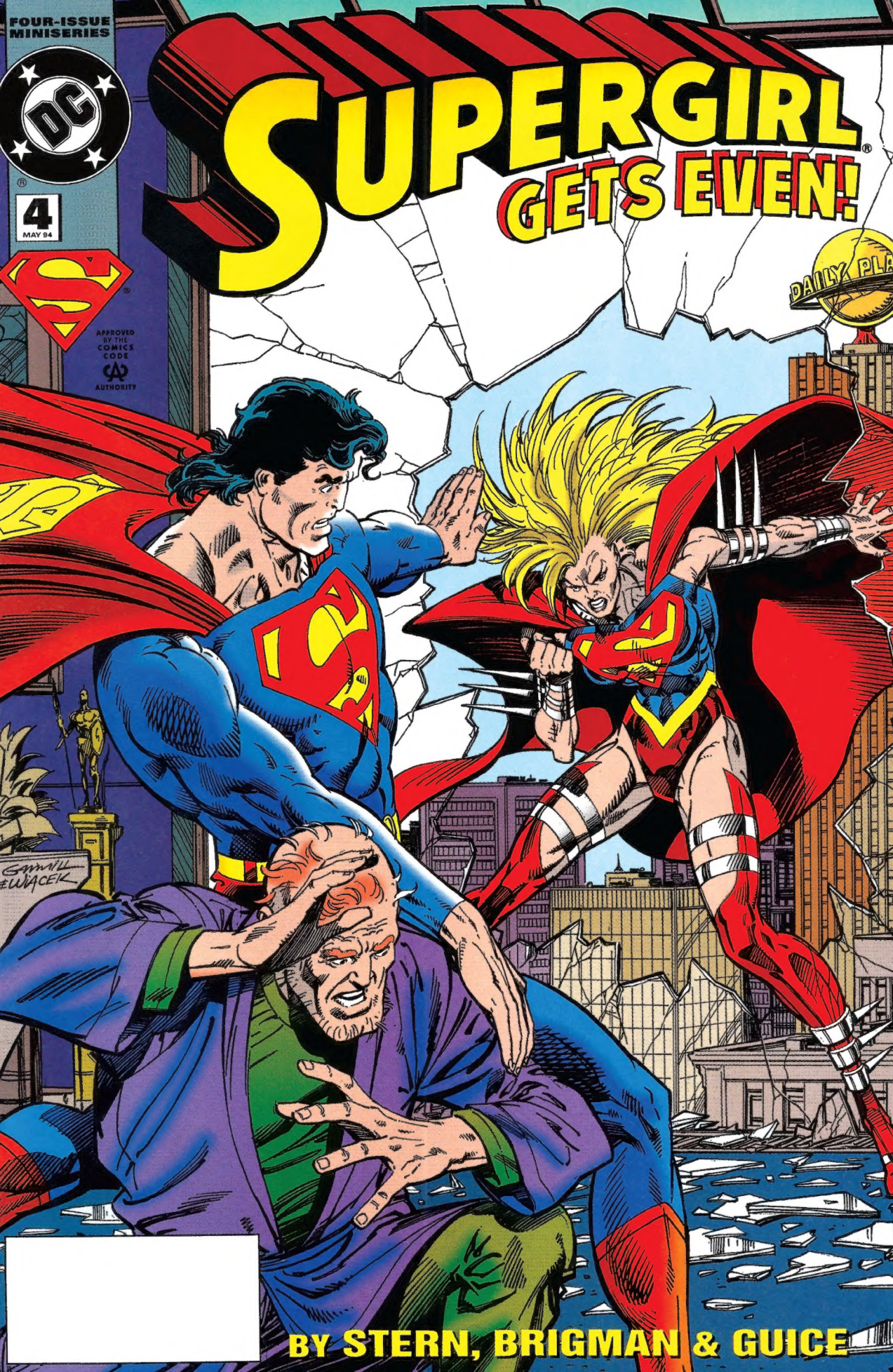
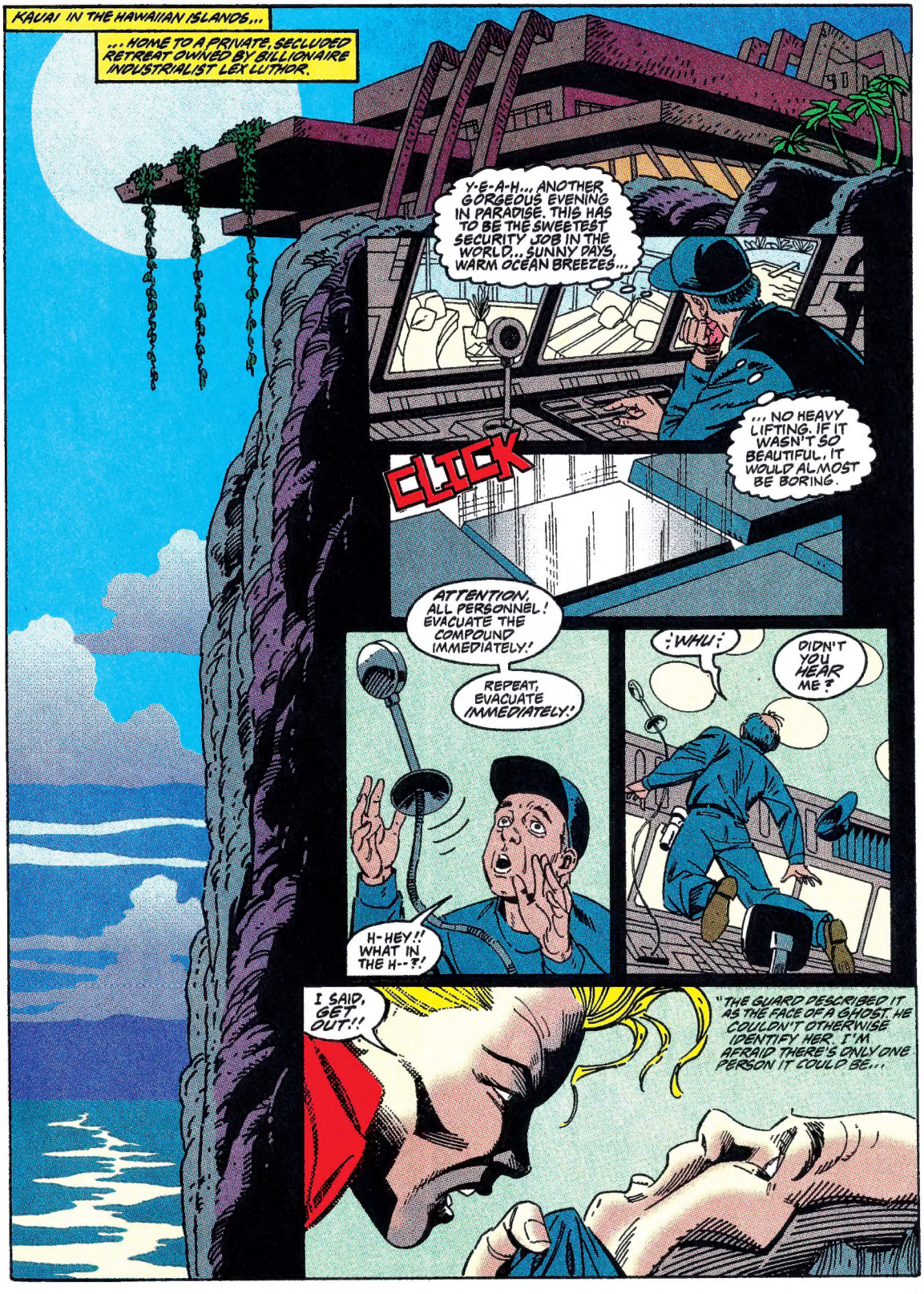

FOUR-ISSUE MINISERIES
DC
4
MAY 94
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERGIRL®
GETS EVEN!
DAILY PLA
BY STERN, BRIGMAN & GUICE


KAUAI IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS...
...HOME TO A PRIVATE, SECLUDED RETREAT OWNED BY BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST LEX LUTHOR.
Y-E-A-H... ANOTHER GORGEOUS EVENING IN PARADISE. THIS HAS TO BE THE SWEETEST SECURITY JOB IN THE WORLD... SUNNY DAYS, WARM OCEAN BREEZES...
...NO HEAVY LIFTING. IF IT WASN'T SO BEAUTIFUL, IT WOULD ALMOST BE BORING.
CLICK
ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL! EVACUATE THE COMPOUND IMMEDIATELY!
REPEAT, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!
H-HEY!! WHAT IN THE H--?!
;WHU;
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID, GET OUT!!
"THE GUARD DESCRIBED IT AS THE FACE OF A GHOST. HE COULDN'T OTHERWISE IDENTIFY HER. I'M AFRAID THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON IT COULD BE..."

SUPERGIRL

BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

"AT ANY RATE, THE FACE DISAPPEARED AND THE GUARD WAS... WELL...TOSSED OUT OF THE ROOM.

"HE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME CARRYING OUT HER ORDERS, NOR DID ANYONE ELSE.

"ONCE THE LAST OF THE STAFF HAD CLEARED THE COMPOUND, THE MAIN BUILDING SIMPLY BLEW APART. WALLS WERE SHATTERED, WIRING SHREDDED..,

"...THAT IN TURN SPARKED THE ELECTRICAL FIRE WHICH TOUCHED OFF THE AMMUNITION IN OUR WEAPONS CACHE-- AND DESTROYED THE REST OF THE COMPOUND."

"FRANKLY, I'M A BIT SURPRISED..."

THE BIG HURT

ROGER STERN - WRITER * JUNE BRIGMAN - PENCILLER
JACKSON GUICE - INKER * ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST * CHRIS DUFFY - ASSISTANT
FRANK PITTARESE - ASSOCIATE * MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

...AFTER SUPERGIRL TRASHED OUR FACILITIES AT ADIRONDACK-ONE, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SHE'D RETURN TO SINGAPORE--

--AND DESTROY THE RESEARCH LABS THERE! THAT SHE DIDN'T IS INEXPLICABLE!

INEXPLICABLE, HAPPERSEN? ONLY IF YOU ASSUME THAT SHE STILL BELIEVES YOU ARE THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND OPERATION: PROTOMATTER.

MR. LUTHOR! YOU THINK SHE SUSPECTS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN, UH...

...REPLICATING HER? I'M SURE OF IT.

THINK, HAPPERSEN! ASIDE FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THAT GUARD, SHE HASN'T REALLY BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE SINCE SHE LEFT ADIRONDACK-ONE.

BUT THREE OF MY PRIVATE HOMES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY PERSONS UNKNOWN-- THREE OF THEM! THE HAWAIIAN COMPOUND, MY CALIFORNIA HACIENDA...

...AND NOW, THE CHALET IN ASPEN. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS CONNECTED TO OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE CADMUS PROJECT*--

--THOUGH CADMUS WOULD MAKE A GOOD SCAPEGOAT. NO. THIS IS PERSONAL.'

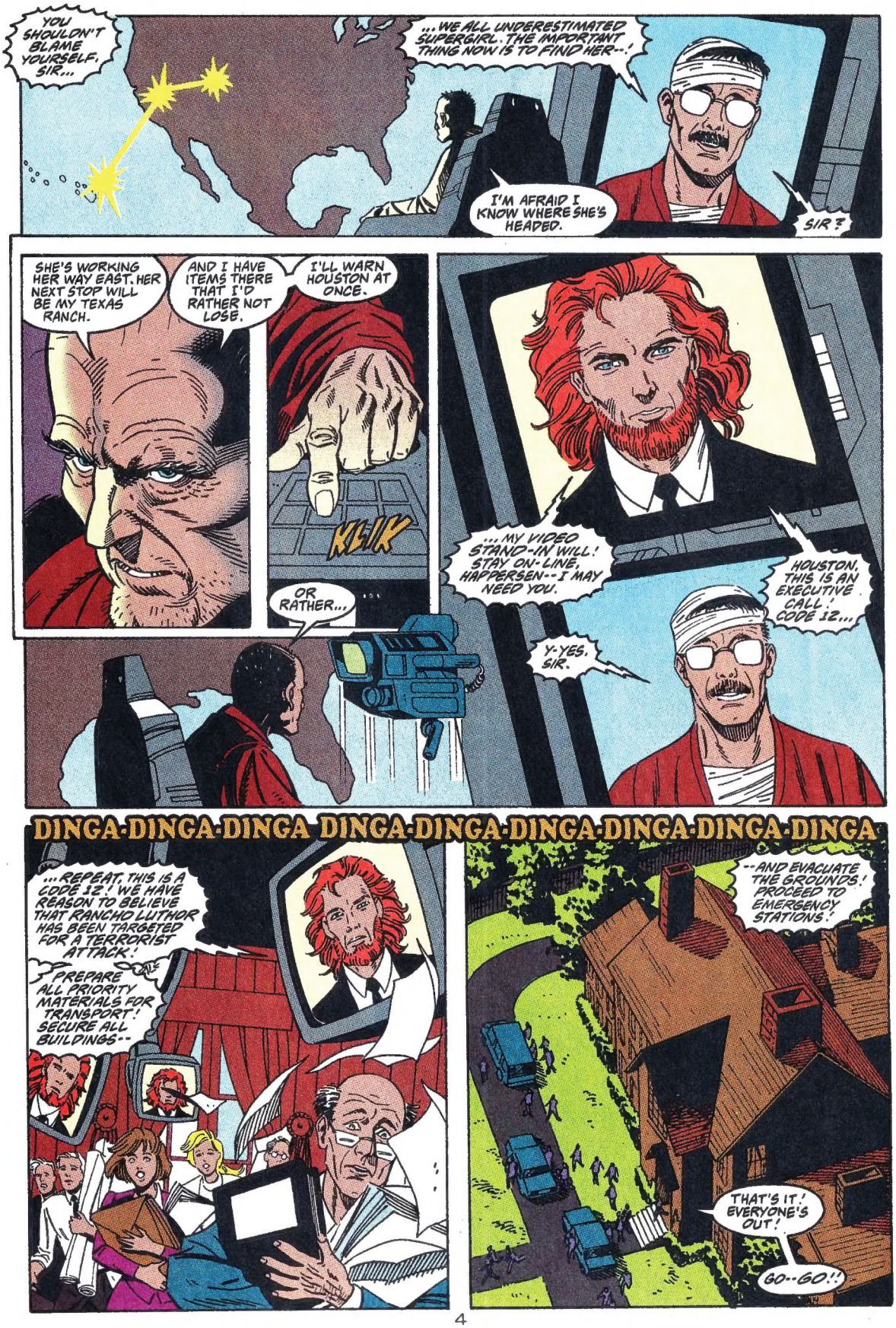
NO ONE THUS FAR HAS BEEN HARMED, SIR.

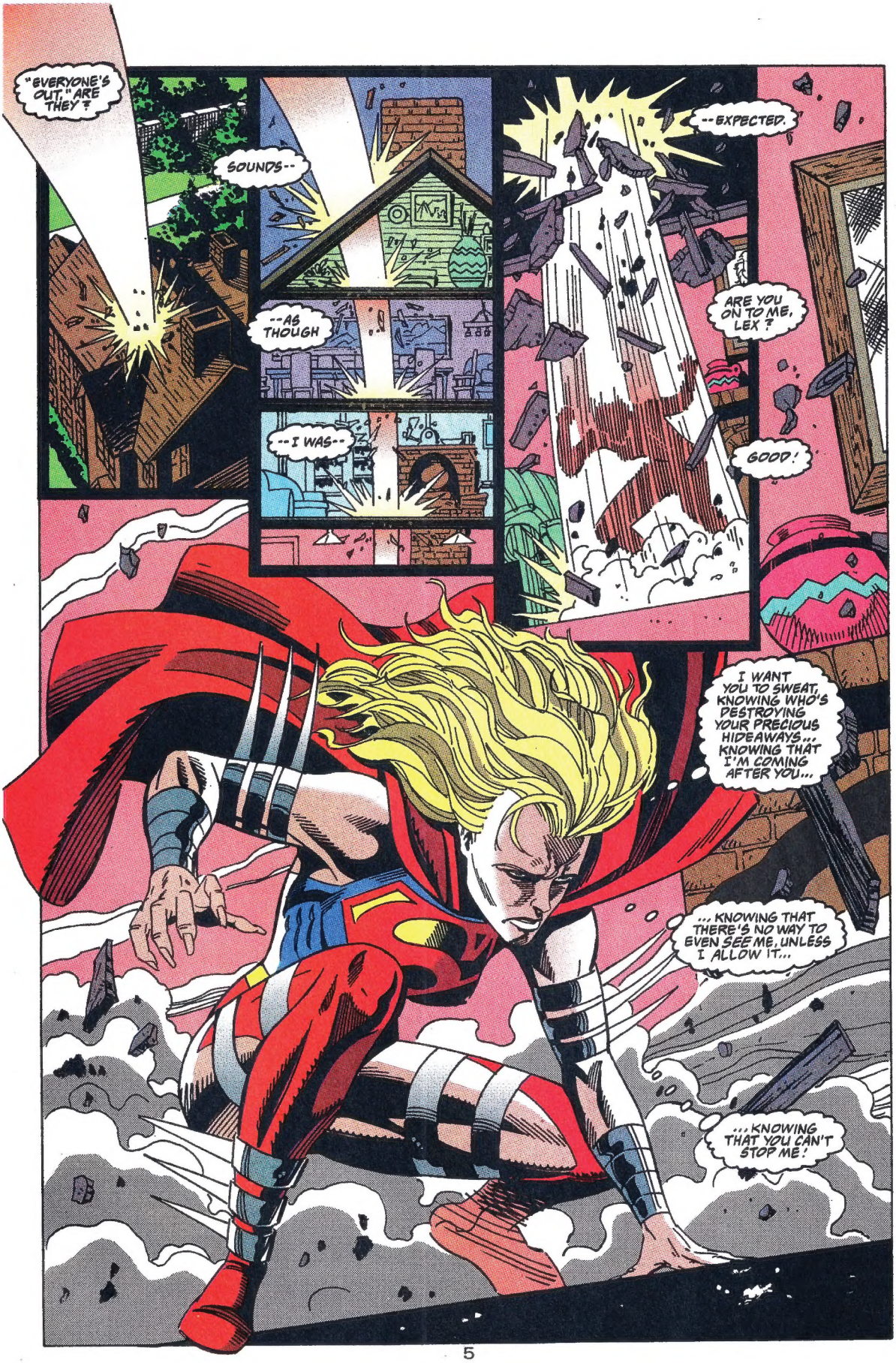
*RE: ACTION COMICS #698

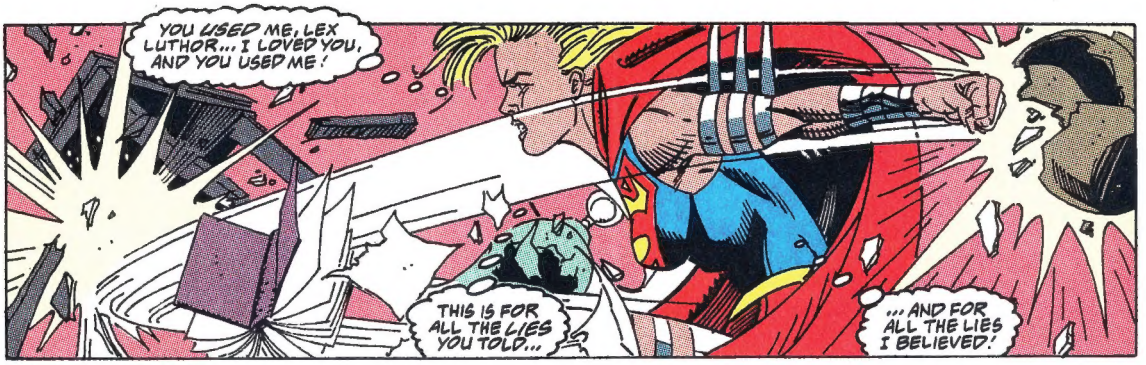
OF COURSE NOT, SYDNEY. IT'S ME SHE WANTS.

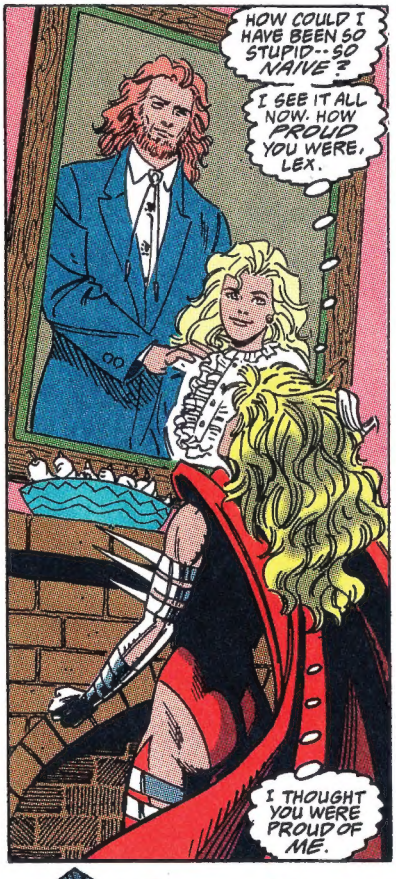
IF ONLY MY BODY HADN'T BETRAYED ME--! WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO RUSH OPERATION: PROTOMATTER...

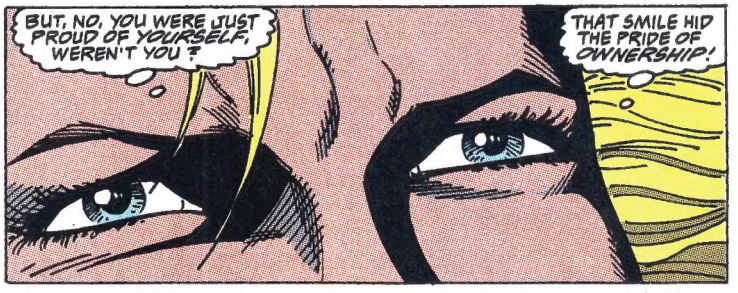
...I COULD HAVE KEPT A TIGHTER REIN ON SUPERGIRL.

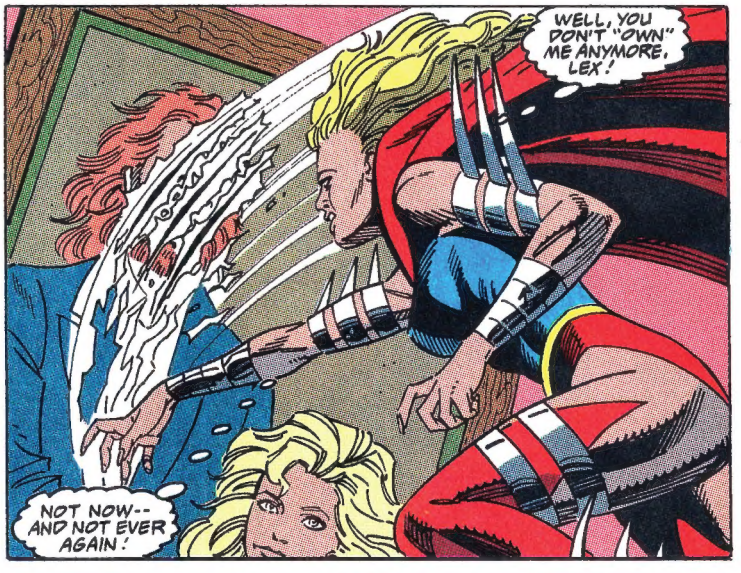

YOU SHOULDN'T BLAME YOURSELF, SIR...
...WE ALL UNDERESTIMATED SUPERGIRL. THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO FIND HER--!
I'M AFRAID I KNOW WHERE SHE'S HEADED.
SIR?
SHE'S WORKING HER WAY EAST. HER NEXT STOP WILL BE MY TEXAS RANCH.
AND I HAVE ITEMS THERE THAT I'D RATHER NOT LOSE.
I'LL WARN HOUSTON AT ONCE.
KLIK
OR RATHER...
...MY VIDEO STAND-IN WILL! STAY ON-LINE, HAPPERSEN--I MAY NEED YOU.
HOUSTON, THIS IS AN EXECUTIVE CALL: CODE 12...
Y-YES, SIR.
DINGA-DINGA-DINGA DINGA-DINGA-DINGA-DINGA-DINGA-DINGA
...REPEAT, THIS IS A CODE 12! WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT RANCHO LUTHOR HAS BEEN TARGETED FOR A TERRORIST ATTACK!
PREPARE ALL PRIORITY MATERIALS FOR TRANSPORT! SECURE ALL BUILDINGS--
--AND EVACUATE THE GROUNDS! PROCEED TO EMERGENCY STATIONS!
THAT'S IT! EVERYONE'S OUT!
GO--GO!!

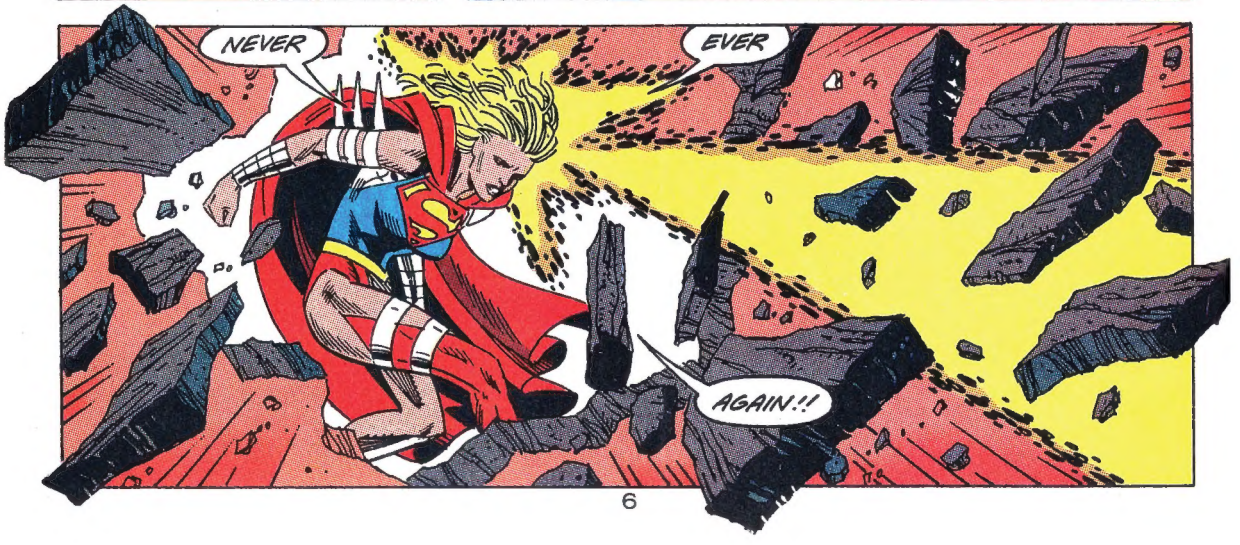

"EVERYONE'S OUT," ARE THEY?
SOUNDS--
--AS THOUGH
--I WAS--
--EXPECTED.
ARE YOU ON TO ME, LEX?
GOOD!
I WANT YOU TO SWEAT, KNOWING WHO'S DESTROYING YOUR PRECIOUS HIDEAWAYS... KNOWING THAT I'M COMING AFTER YOU...
... KNOWING THAT THERE'S NO WAY TO EVEN SEE ME, UNLESS I ALLOW IT...
... KNOWING THAT YOU CAN'T STOP ME!


YOU USED ME, LEX LUTHOR... I LOVED YOU, AND YOU USED ME!
THIS IS FOR ALL THE LIES YOU TOLD...
...AND FOR ALL THE LIES I BELIEVED!

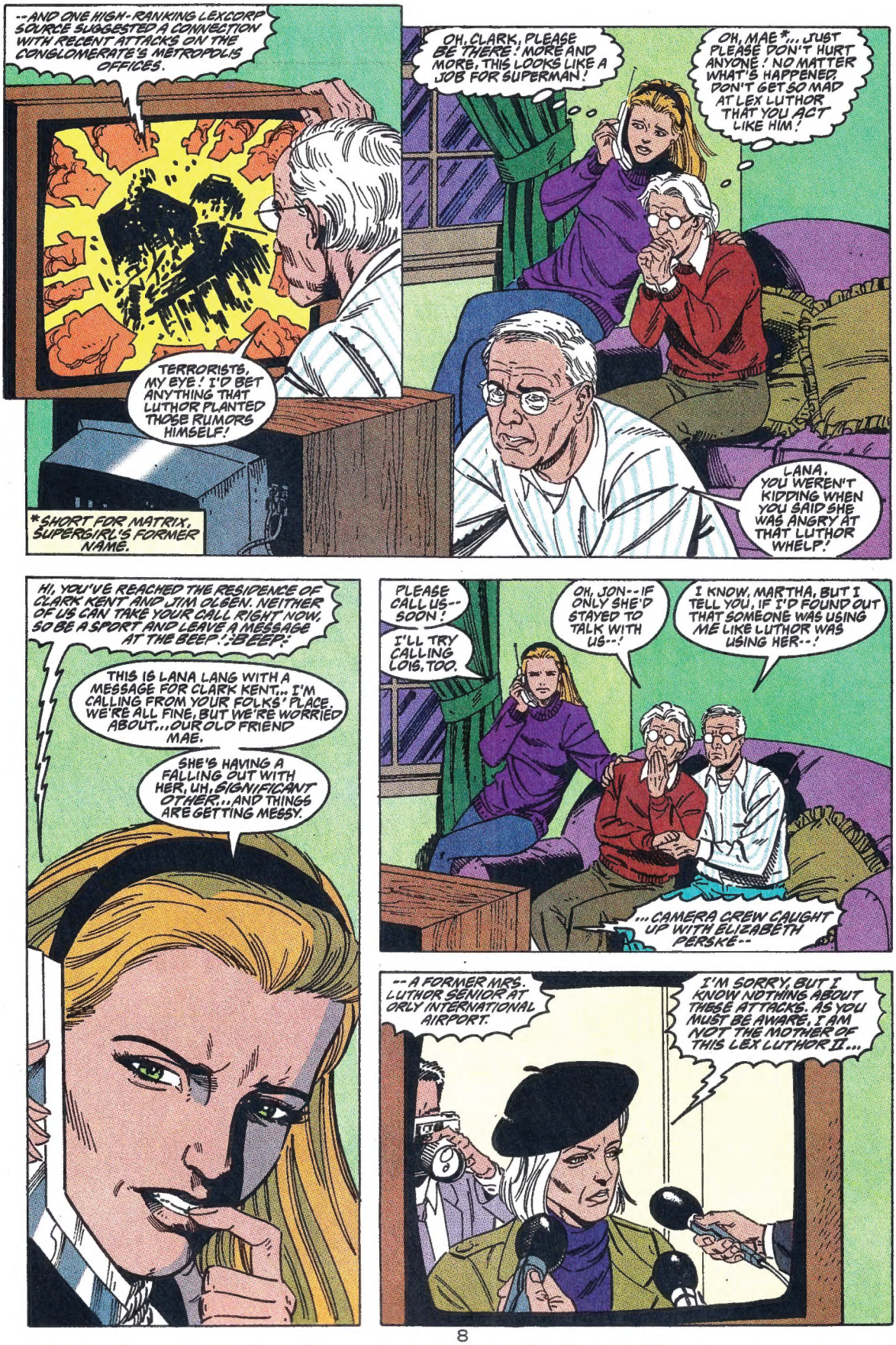

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID--SO NAIVE?
I SEE IT ALL NOW. HOW PROUD YOU WERE, LEX.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE PROUD OF ME.

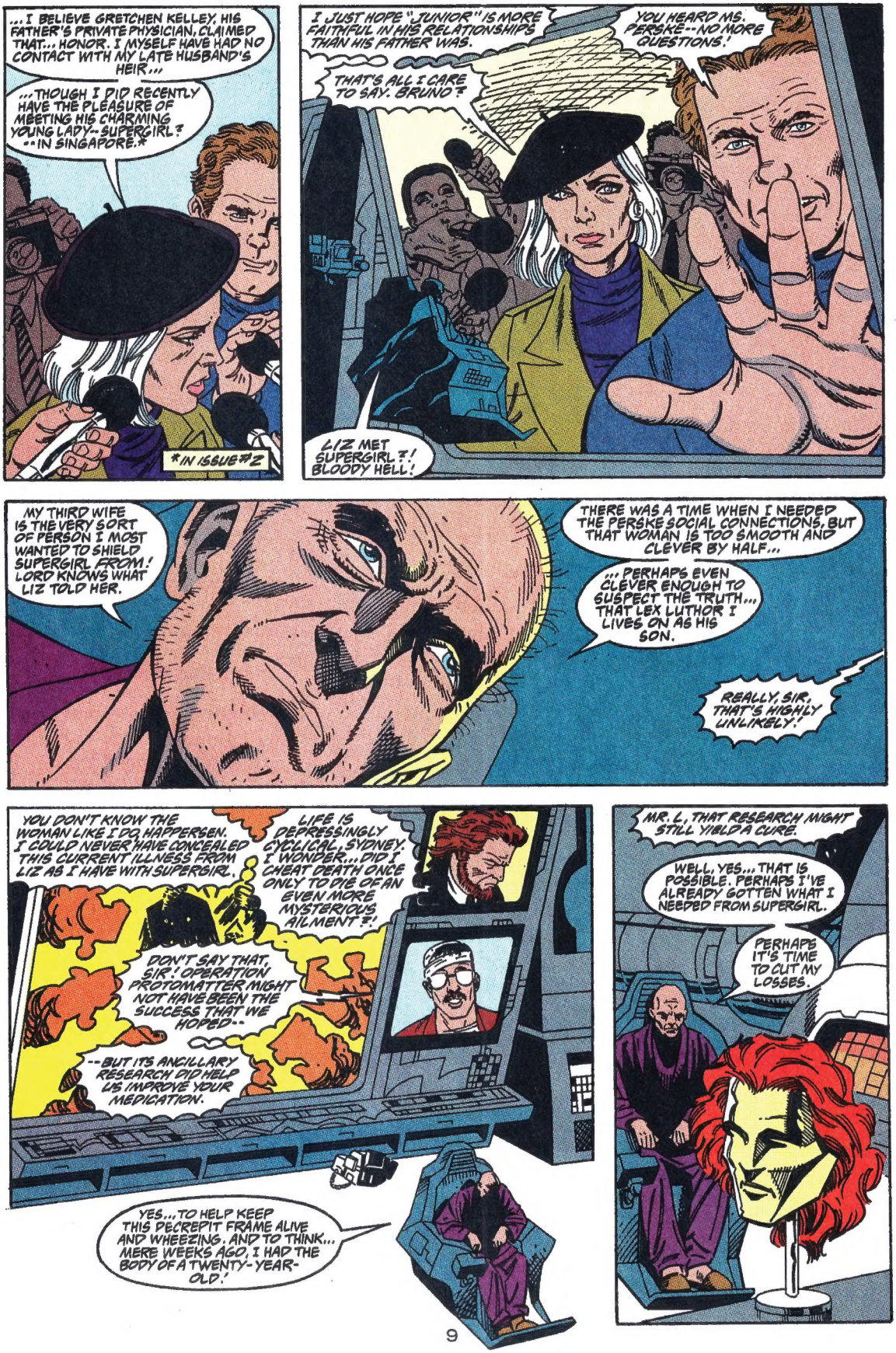

BUT, NO, YOU WERE JUST PROUD OF YOURSELF, WEREN'T YOU?
THAT SMILE HID THE PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP!


WELL, YOU DON'T "OWN" ME ANYMORE, LEX!
NOT NOW--AND NOT EVER AGAIN!


NEVER
EVER
AGAIN!!

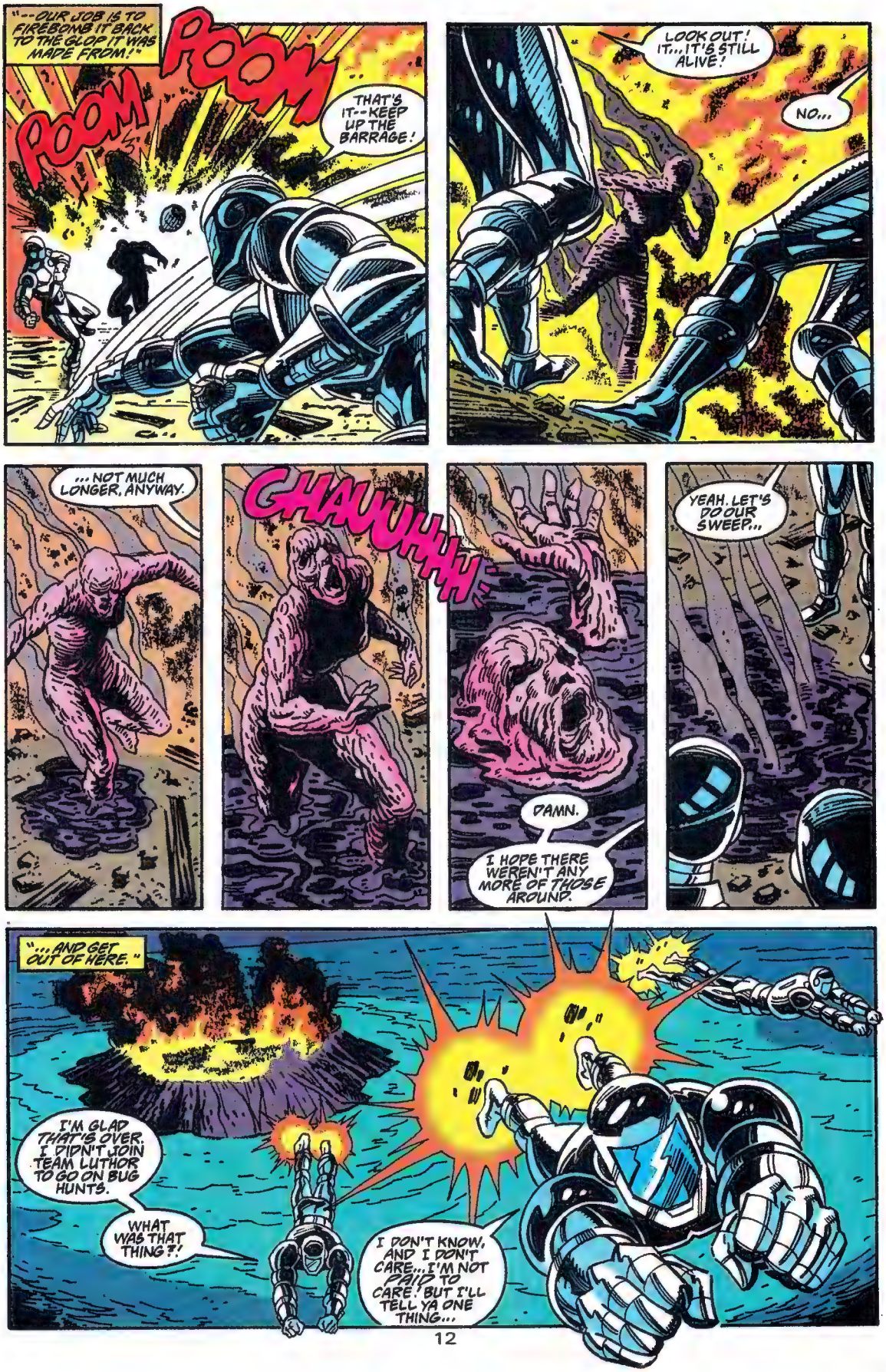
SUPERGIRL, NO!
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, GIRL--
--PLEASE! LET ME EXPLAIN!
SUPERGIRL? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
...AND NOW IT'S NOT EVEN TRANSMITTING.
...IF ONLY I COULD HAVE TALKED TO HER--!
DAMN...
"NO... NO, I GUESS YOU CAN'T.
WE HAVE MORE PROBLEMS TO FACE NOW, SIR. YOUR OTHER PROPERTIES WERE RELATIVELY ISOLATED...
...THAT'S NOT THE CASE WITH THE TEXAS RANCH. WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS QUIET NOW--
--WE'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH A STORY FOR THE MEDIA...
"THE FEEDER LINE MUST HAVE BEEN SNAPPED WHEN SHE BROKE THROUGH INTO THE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM. TEXAS ISN'T RECEIVING..."
"...FABULOUS RANCHO LUTHOR, CONSTRUCTED DURING THE GREAT OIL BOOM BY THE FIRST LEX LUTHOR, LEVELED THIS MORNING BY A MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION.
"WHILE THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM EITHER LEXCORP OR LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOURCES NEAR THE SCENE REPORTED RUMORS OF TERRORIST INVOLVEMENT--"

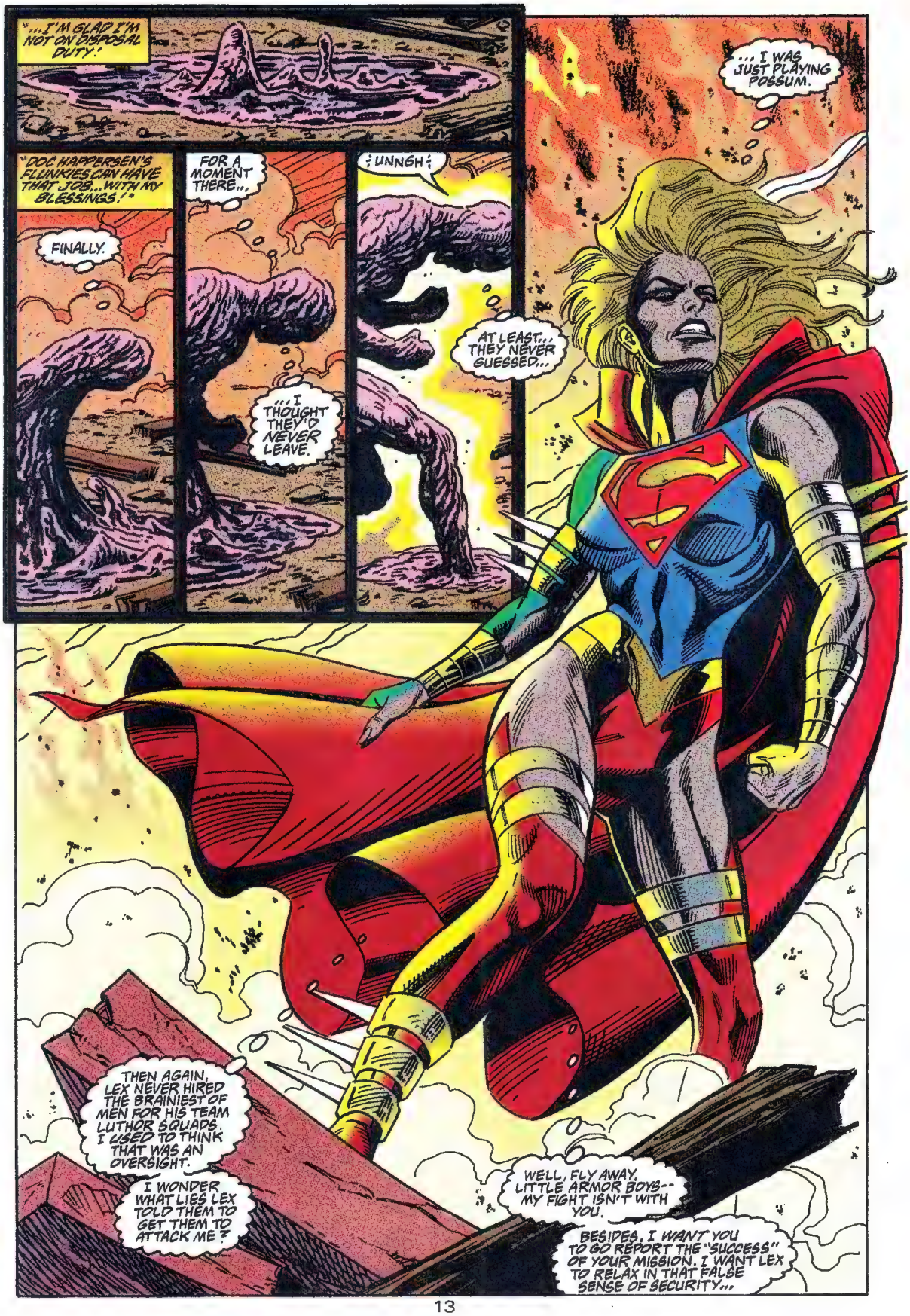

--AND ONE HIGH-RANKING LEXCORP SOURCE SUGGESTED A CONNECTION WITH RECENT ATTACKS ON THE CONGLOMERATE'S METROPOLIS OFFICES.
TERRORISTS, MY EYE! I'D BET ANYTHING THAT LUTHOR PLANTED THOSE RUMORS HIMSELF!
*SHORT FOR MATRIX, SUPERGIRL'S FORMER NAME.
OH, CLARK, PLEASE BE THERE! MORE AND MORE, THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
OH, MAE*... JUST PLEASE DON'T HURT ANYONE! NO MATTER WHAT'S HAPPENED, DON'T GET SO MAD AT LEX LUTHOR THAT YOU ACT LIKE HIM!
LANA, YOU WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN YOU SAID SHE WAS ANGRY AT THAT LUTHOR WHELP!
HI, YOU'VE REACHED THE RESIDENCE OF CLARK KENT AND JIM OLSEN. NEITHER OF US CAN TAKE YOUR CALL RIGHT NOW, SO BE A SPORT AND LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE BEEP!--BEEP!--
THIS IS LANA LANG WITH A MESSAGE FOR CLARK KENT... I'M CALLING FROM YOUR FOLKS' PLACE. WE'RE ALL FINE, BUT WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT... OUR OLD FRIEND MAE.
SHE'S HAVING A FALLING OUT WITH HER, UH, SIGNIFICANT OTHER... AND THINGS ARE GETTING MESSY.
PLEASE CALL US--SOON!
I'LL TRY CALLING LOIS, TOO.
OH, JON--IF ONLY SHE'D STAYED TO TALK WITH US--!
I KNOW, MARTHA, BUT I TELL YOU, IF I'D FOUND OUT THAT SOMEONE WAS USING ME LIKE LUTHOR WAS USING HER--!
...CAMERA CREW CAUGHT UP WITH ELIZABETH PERSKE--
--A FORMER MRS. LUTHOR SENIOR AT ORLY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
I'M SORRY, BUT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THESE ATTACKS. AS YOU MUST BE AWARE, I AM NOT THE MOTHER OF THIS LEX LUTHOR II...

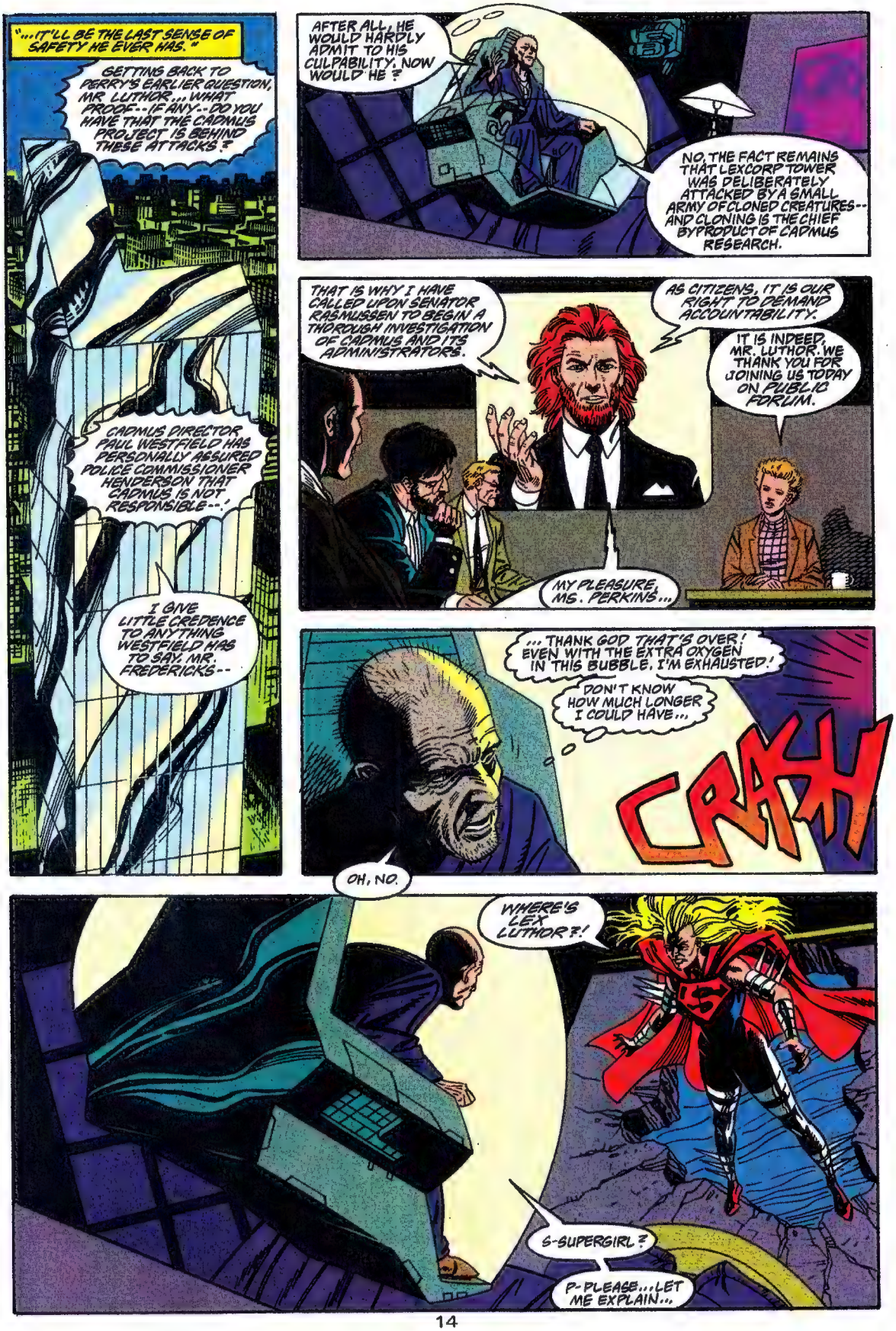

...I BELIEVE GRETCHEN KELLEY, HIS FATHER'S PRIVATE PHYSICIAN, CLAIMED THAT... HONOR. I MYSELF HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH MY LATE HUSBAND'S HEIR...
...THOUGH I DID RECENTLY HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MEETING HIS CHARMING YOUNG LADY--SUPERGIRL?--IN SINGAPORE.*
*IN ISSUE #2
I JUST HOPE "JUNIOR" IS MORE FAITHFUL IN HIS RELATIONSHIPS THAN HIS FATHER WAS.
YOU HEARD MS. PERSKE--NO MORE QUESTIONS!
THAT'S ALL I CARE TO SAY, BRUNO!
LIZ MET SUPERGIRL?! BLOODY HELL!
MY THIRD WIFE IS THE VERY SORT OF PERSON I MOST WANTED TO SHIELD SUPERGIRL FROM! LORD KNOWS WHAT LIZ TOLD HER.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I NEEDED THE PERSKE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, BUT THAT WOMAN IS TOO SMOOTH AND CLEVER BY HALF...
...PERHAPS EVEN CLEVER ENOUGH TO SUSPECT THE TRUTH... THAT LEX LUTHOR I LIVES ON AS HIS SON.
REALLY, SIR, THAT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE WOMAN LIKE I DO, HAPPERSEN. I COULD NEVER HAVE CONCEALED THIS CURRENT ILLNESS FROM LIZ AS I HAVE WITH SUPERGIRL.
LIFE IS DEPRESSINGLY CYCLICAL, SYDNEY. I WONDER... DID I CHEAT DEATH ONCE ONLY TO DIE OF AN EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS AILMENT?!
DON'T SAY THAT, SIR! OPERATION PROTOMATTER MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE SUCCESS THAT WE HOPED--
--BUT ITS ANCILLARY RESEARCH DID HELP US IMPROVE YOUR MEDICATION.
YES... TO HELP KEEP THIS DECREPIT FRAME ALIVE AND WHEEZING. AND TO THINK... MERE WEEKS AGO, I HAD THE BODY OF A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD!
MR. L, THAT RESEARCH MIGHT STILL YIELD A CURE.
WELL, YES... THAT IS POSSIBLE. PERHAPS I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN WHAT I NEEDED FROM SUPERGIRL.
PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO CUT MY LOSSES.

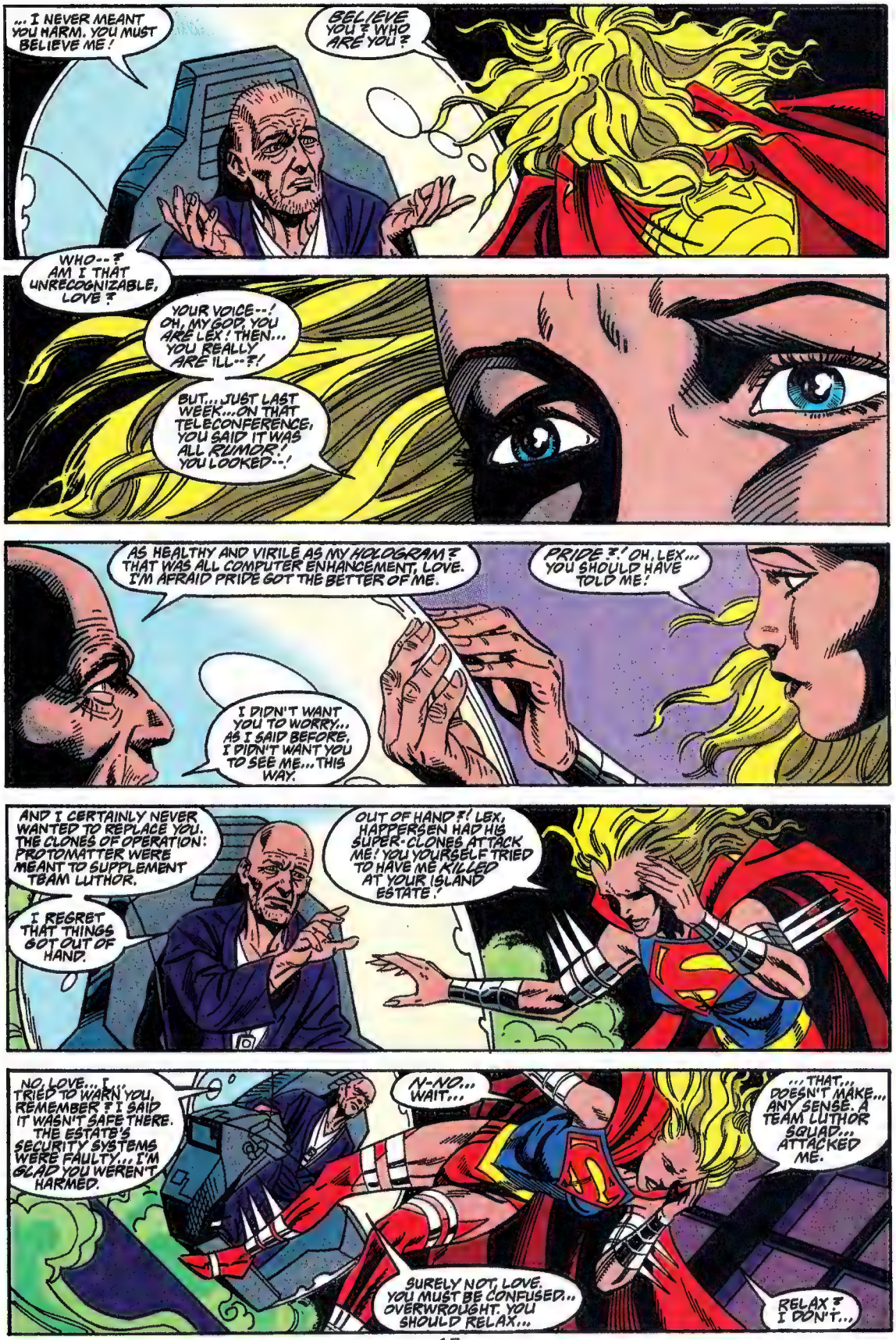
I CONCUR. CLEARLY, YOUR ORIGINAL GOAL OF CREATING AN ARMY OF SUPERGIRLS HAS BEEN LOST. AND IF YOU'LL FORGIVE MY SAYING SO, SIR, IT IS TIME TO DO SOMETHING!
ONCE SUPERGIRL HAS DESTROYED THE LAST OF YOUR PRIVATE HOMES, SHE WILL MOST CERTAINLY TURN HER ATTENTION TO LEXCORP TOWER.
I HAVE ;KOFF; ALREADY CONSIDERED THAT, SYDNEY.
WE HAVE FORTIFIED YOUR QUARTERS THERE, BUT IT WOULD BE BEST TO STOP HER BEFORE--! SIR?!
;KOFF-KOFF-KOFF; DON'T... WORRY ;KOFF; I'VE... GOT THIS...
...UNDER CONTROL. ;KAFF; YES, THERE IS A BETTER PLACE TO STOP MY SUPERGIRL. I MUST TRY ONCE MORE TO GET THROUGH TO HER, BUT IF THAT FAILS...
...WELL, NOTHING LASTS FOREVER. NOT MY MARRIAGE TO ELIZABETH PERSKE... NOT EVEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPERGIRL...
...PITY.
ARE YOU WORRIED, LEX? BY NOW YOU'D BETTER BE!
I AM GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY DEARLY FOR USING ME!
WHEN I THINK OF HOW I USED TO DEFEND YOU--! AT MOST, I'D CONCEDE THAT YOU WERE "A LITTLE POSSESSIVE."
GOD HELP ME, I THINK I WAS EVEN A LITTLE BEMUSED WHEN YOU'D GET SECRETIVE. WELL, NO LONGER, LEX...

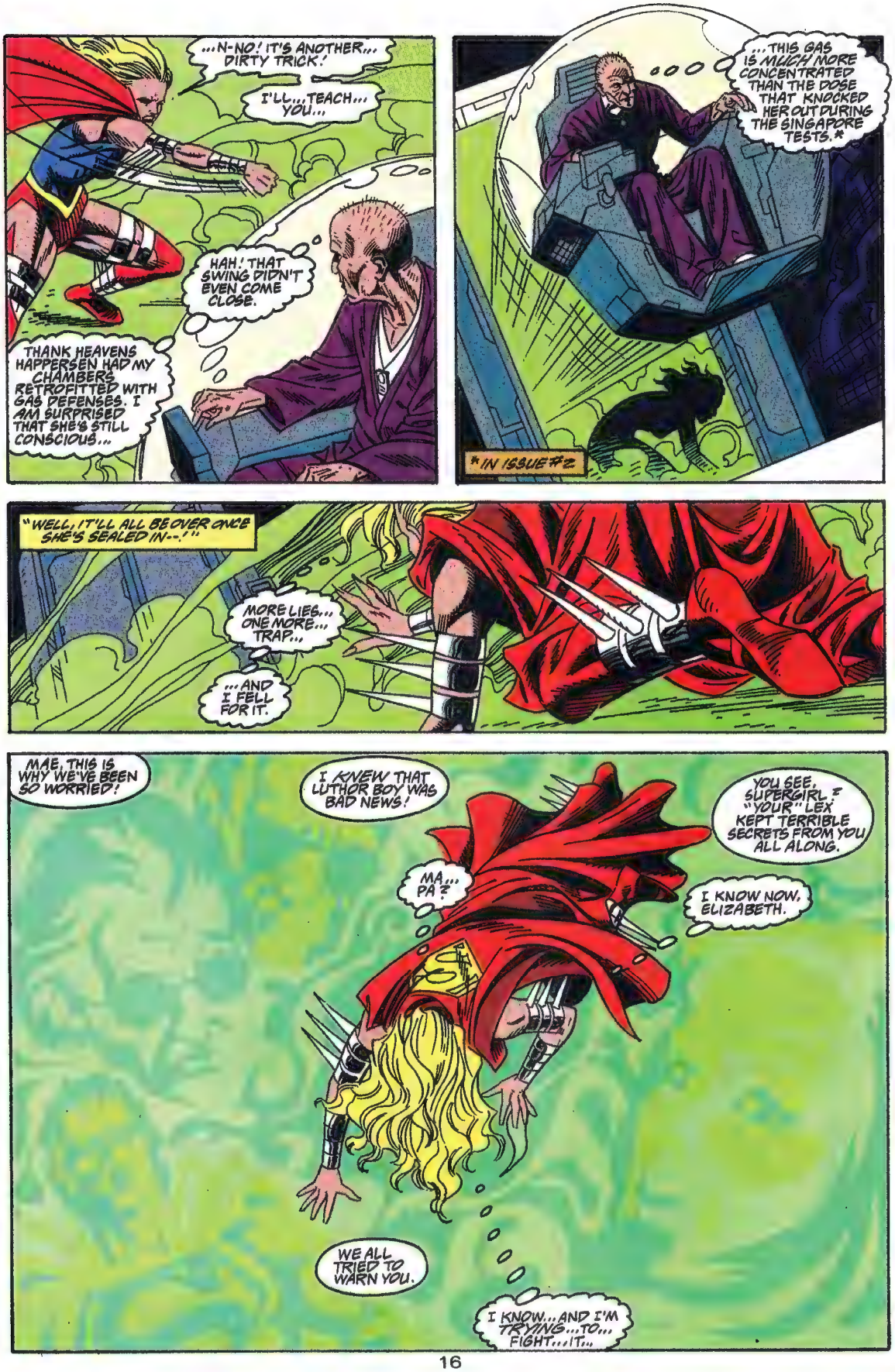
...NO LONGER.
HMM. FROM ALL SIDES, LEX'S ISLAND ESTATE LOOKS DESERTED. AFTER TEXAS, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING--
-- BUT THIS PLACE WAS ALWAYS FAIRLY WELL FORTIFIED. I'D BETTER STAY ALERT...
"...THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT I MIGHT FIND WAITING FOR ME."
LUTHOR!
SUPERGIRL!
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET, LOVE, BUT-- BELIEVE ME--THE LAST THING I WANTED WAS TO HURT YOU. PLEASE, CALM DOWN AND LISTEN.
DON'T FIGHT ME HERE--THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE.
LIAR!
I DESERVE THAT... I DID DECEIVE YOU. I'VE BEEN VERY ILL AND I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME THAT WAY.
WE'D HOPED TO FIND A CURE FOR ME IN STUDYING THE PROTOMATTER THAT YOU'RE MADE OF--!
YOU POSSESSIVE LEECH! YOU WANTED TO REPLACE ME WITH BRAINLESS CLONES!
SORRY, LOVE...
...I'M NOT REALLY HERE--
"--AND I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HOUSE."
KA-BOOM
THAT'S THE PROXIMITY BLAST-- MOVE IN!
WORD FROM THE BOSS IS THAT ANOTHER OF THOSE CADMUS PROJECT MONSTERS IS IN THERE--


"--OUR JOB IS TO FIREBOMB IT BACK TO THE GLOP IT WAS MADE FROM!"
POOM
POOM
THAT'S IT--KEEP UP THE BARRAGE!
LOOK OUT! IT...IT'S STILL ALIVE!
NO...
...NOT MUCH LONGER, ANYWAY.
GHAUUHHH
DAMN.
I HOPE THERE WEREN'T ANY MORE OF THOSE AROUND.
YEAH. LET'S DO OUR SWEEP...
"...AND GET OUT OF HERE."
I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER. I DIDN'T JOIN TEAM LUTHOR TO GO ON BUG HUNTS.
WHAT WAS THAT THING?!
I DON'T KNOW, AND I DON'T CARE...I'M NOT PAID TO CARE! BUT I'LL TELL YA ONE THING...

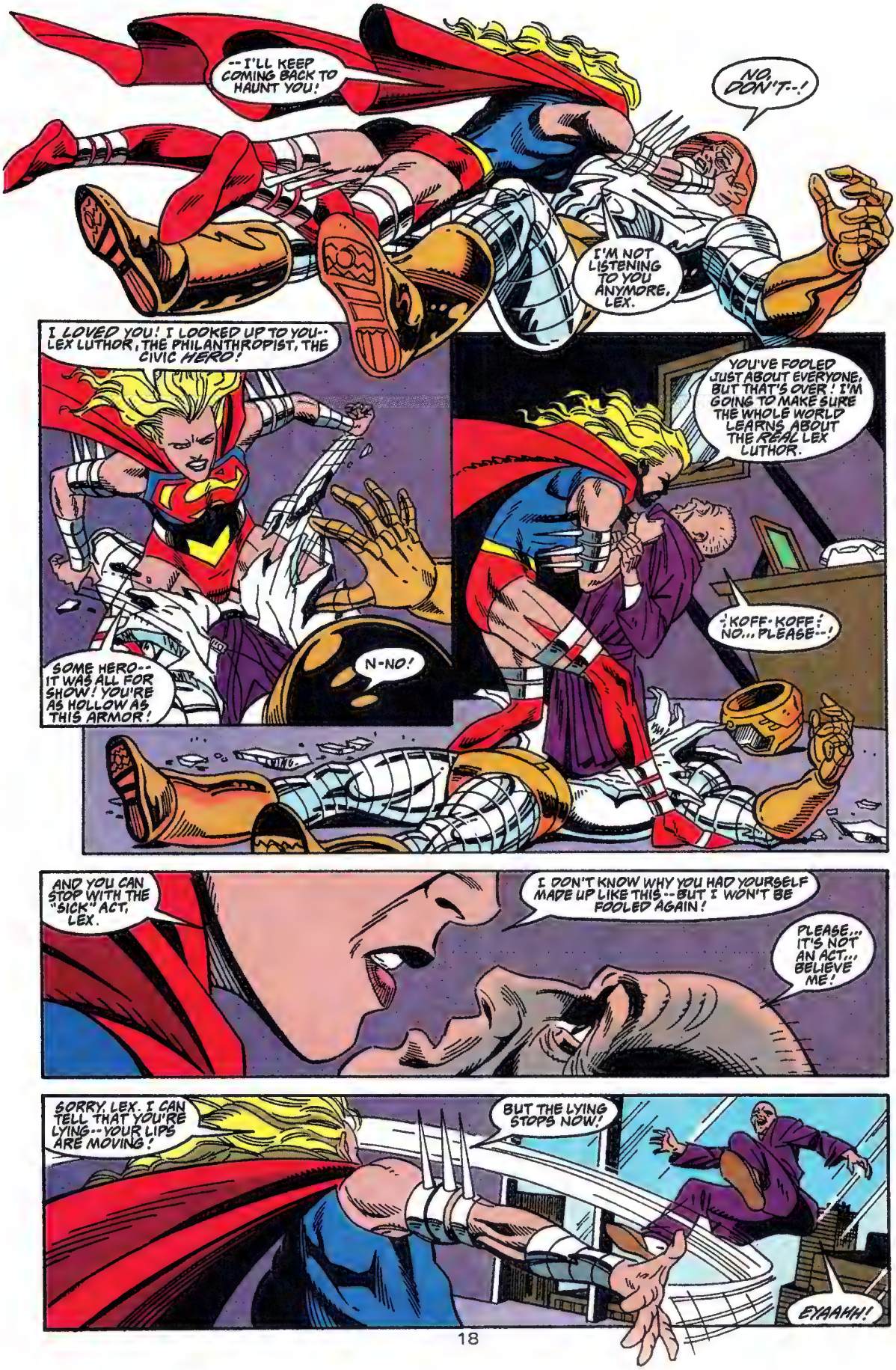

"...I'M GLAD I'M NOT ON DISPOSAL DUTY.'
"DOC HAPPERSEN'S FLUNKIES CAN HAVE THAT JOB...WITH MY BLESSINGS!"
FINALLY.
FOR A MOMENT THERE...
...I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE.
;UNNGH;
AT LEAST... THEY NEVER GUESSED...
...I WAS JUST PLAYING POSSUM.
THEN AGAIN, LEX NEVER HIRED THE BRAINIEST OF MEN FOR HIS TEAM LUTHOR SQUADS. I USED TO THINK THAT WAS AN OVERSIGHT.
I WONDER WHAT LIES LEX TOLD THEM TO GET THEM TO ATTACK ME?
WELL, FLY AWAY, LITTLE ARMOR BOYS-- MY FIGHT ISN'T WITH YOU.
BESIDES, I WANT YOU TO GO REPORT THE "SUCCESS" OF YOUR MISSION. I WANT LEX TO RELAX IN THAT FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY...

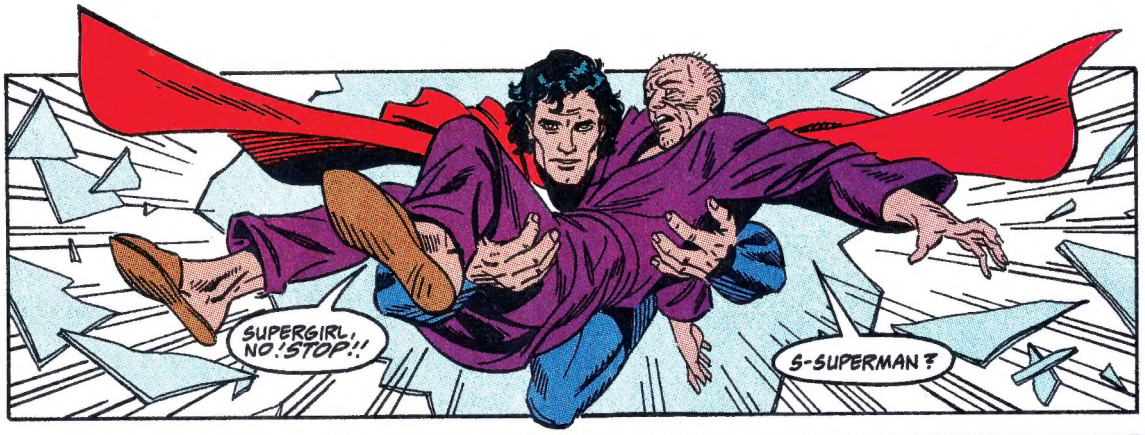

"...IT'LL BE THE LAST SENSE OF SAFETY HE EVER HAS."
GETTING BACK TO PERRY'S EARLIER QUESTION, MR. LUTHOR... WHAT PROOF--IF ANY--DO YOU HAVE THAT THE CADMUS PROJECT IS BEHIND THESE ATTACKS?
CADMUS DIRECTOR PAUL WESTFIELD HAS PERSONALLY ASSURED POLICE COMMISSIONER HENDERSON THAT CADMUS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE--.
I GIVE LITTLE CREDENCE TO ANYTHING WESTFIELD HAS TO SAY, MR. FREDERICKS--
AFTER ALL, HE WOULD HARDLY ADMIT TO HIS CULPABILITY, NOW WOULD HE?
NO, THE FACT REMAINS THAT LEXCORP TOWER WAS DELIBERATELY ATTACKED BY A SMALL ARMY OF CLONED CREATURES--AND CLONING IS THE CHIEF BYPRODUCT OF CADMUS RESEARCH.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE CALLED UPON SENATOR RASMUSSEN TO BEGIN A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF CADMUS AND ITS ADMINISTRATORS.
AS CITIZENS, IT IS OUR RIGHT TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY.
IT IS INDEED, MR. LUTHOR. WE THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY ON PUBLIC FORUM.
MY PLEASURE, MS. PERKINS...
...THANK GOD THAT'S OVER! EVEN WITH THE EXTRA OXYGEN IN THIS BUBBLE, I'M EXHAUSTED!
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I COULD HAVE...
CRASH
OH, NO.
WHERE'S LEX LUTHOR?!
S-SUPERGIRL?
P-PLEASE...LET ME EXPLAIN...


... I NEVER MEANT YOU HARM. YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
BELIEVE YOU? WHO ARE YOU?
WHO--? AM I THAT UNRECOGNIZABLE, LOVE?
YOUR VOICE--! OH, MY GOD, YOU ARE LEX! THEN... YOU REALLY ARE ILL--?!
BUT... JUST LAST WEEK... ON THAT TELECONFERENCE, YOU SAID IT WAS ALL RUMOR! YOU LOOKED--!
AS HEALTHY AND VIRILE AS MY HOLOGRAM? THAT WAS ALL COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT, LOVE. I'M AFRAID PRIDE GOT THE BETTER OF ME.
PRIDE?! OH, LEX... YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY... AS I SAID BEFORE, I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME... THIS WAY.
AND I CERTAINLY NEVER WANTED TO REPLACE YOU. THE CLONES OF OPERATION: PROTOMATTER WERE MEANT TO SUPPLEMENT TEAM LUTHOR.
I REGRET THAT THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND.
OUT OF HAND?! LEX, HAPPERSEN HAD HIS SUPER-CLONES ATTACK ME! YOU YOURSELF TRIED TO HAVE ME KILLED AT YOUR ISLAND ESTATE!
NO, LOVE... I TRIED TO WARN YOU, REMEMBER? I SAID IT WASN'T SAFE THERE. THE ESTATE'S SECURITY SYSTEMS WERE FAULTY... I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T HARMED.
N-NO... WAIT...
... THAT... DOESN'T MAKE... ANY SENSE. A TEAM LUTHOR SQUAD... ATTACKED ME.
SURELY NOT, LOVE. YOU MUST BE CONFUSED... OVERWROUGHT. YOU SHOULD RELAX...
RELAX? I DON'T...

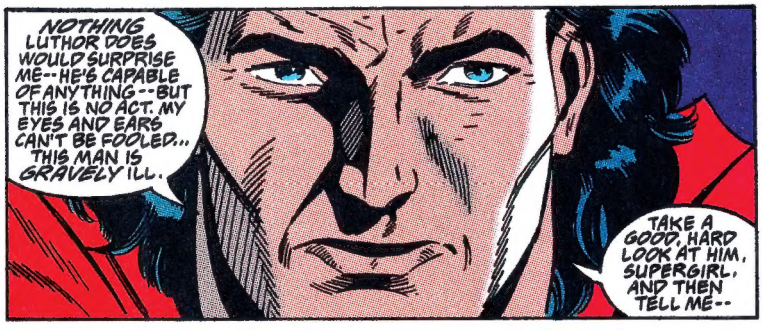

...N-NO! IT'S ANOTHER... DIRTY TRICK!
I'LL...TEACH... YOU...
HAH! THAT SWING DIDN'T EVEN COME CLOSE.
THANK HEAVENS HAPPERSEN HAD MY CHAMBERS RETROFITTED WITH GAS DEFENSES. I AM SURPRISED THAT SHE'S STILL CONSCIOUS...
...THIS GAS IS MUCH MORE CONCENTRATED THAN THE DOSE THAT KNOCKED HER OUT DURING THE SINGAPORE TESTS.*
*IN ISSUE #2
"WELL, IT'LL ALL BE OVER ONCE SHE'S SEALED IN--!"
MORE LIES... ONE MORE... TRAP...
...AND I FELL FOR IT.
MAE, THIS IS WHY WE'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!
I KNEW THAT LUTHOR BOY WAS BAD NEWS!
YOU SEE, SUPERGIRL, "YOUR" LEX KEPT TERRIBLE SECRETS FROM YOU ALL ALONG.
MA... PA?
I KNOW NOW, ELIZABETH.
WE ALL TRIED TO WARN YOU.
I KNOW... AND I'M TRYING...TO... FIGHT...IT...

"...TO...FIGHT...THE WEAKNESS."
:KAFF-KAFF-KAFF: INFERNAL COUGH.
I'M TOO VULNERABLE IN THE CHAIR. I NEED MY ARMOR FOR PROTECTION... AND FOR ITS LIFE-SUPPORTS.
:OOF:
FINE THING... CAN'T EVEN STAY UPRIGHT ANYMORE. NEVER FELT SO WEAK... SO HELPLESS.
HORRIBLE FEELING. MUST NEVER--NEVER! --BE HELPLESS!
THE ARMOR WILL SAVE ME...
...MAKE ME STRONG.
EH?!
YOU LIED TO ME, LEX-- AGAIN!
YOU... OVERCAME THE GAS?! DOESN'T ANYTHING STOP YOU?
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
JUST LIKE YOUR LIES, LEX--

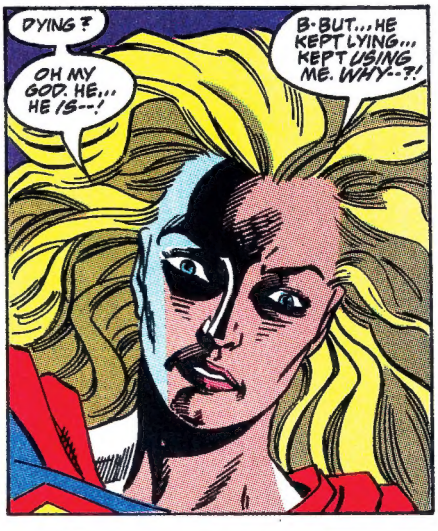

--I'LL KEEP COMING BACK TO HAUNT YOU!
NO, DON'T--!
I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU ANYMORE, LEX.
I LOVED YOU! I LOOKED UP TO YOU--LEX LUTHOR, THE PHILANTHROPIST, THE CIVIC HERO!
SOME HERO--IT WAS ALL FOR SHOW! YOU'RE AS HOLLOW AS THIS ARMOR!
N-NO!
YOU'VE FOOLED JUST ABOUT EVERYONE, BUT THAT'S OVER! I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THE WHOLE WORLD LEARNS ABOUT THE REAL LEX LUTHOR.
:KOFF-KOFF: NO... PLEASE--!
AND YOU CAN STOP WITH THE "SICK" ACT, LEX.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAD YOURSELF MADE UP LIKE THIS--BUT I WON'T BE FOOLED AGAIN!
PLEASE... IT'S NOT AN ACT... BELIEVE ME!
SORRY, LEX. I CAN TELL THAT YOU'RE LYING--YOUR LIPS ARE MOVING!
BUT THE LYING STOPS NOW!
EYAAHH!

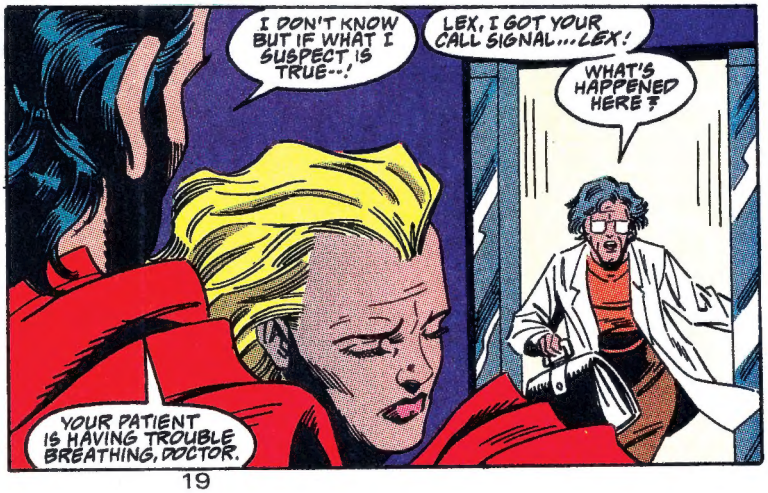

SUPERGIRL, NO! STOP!!
S-SUPERMAN?

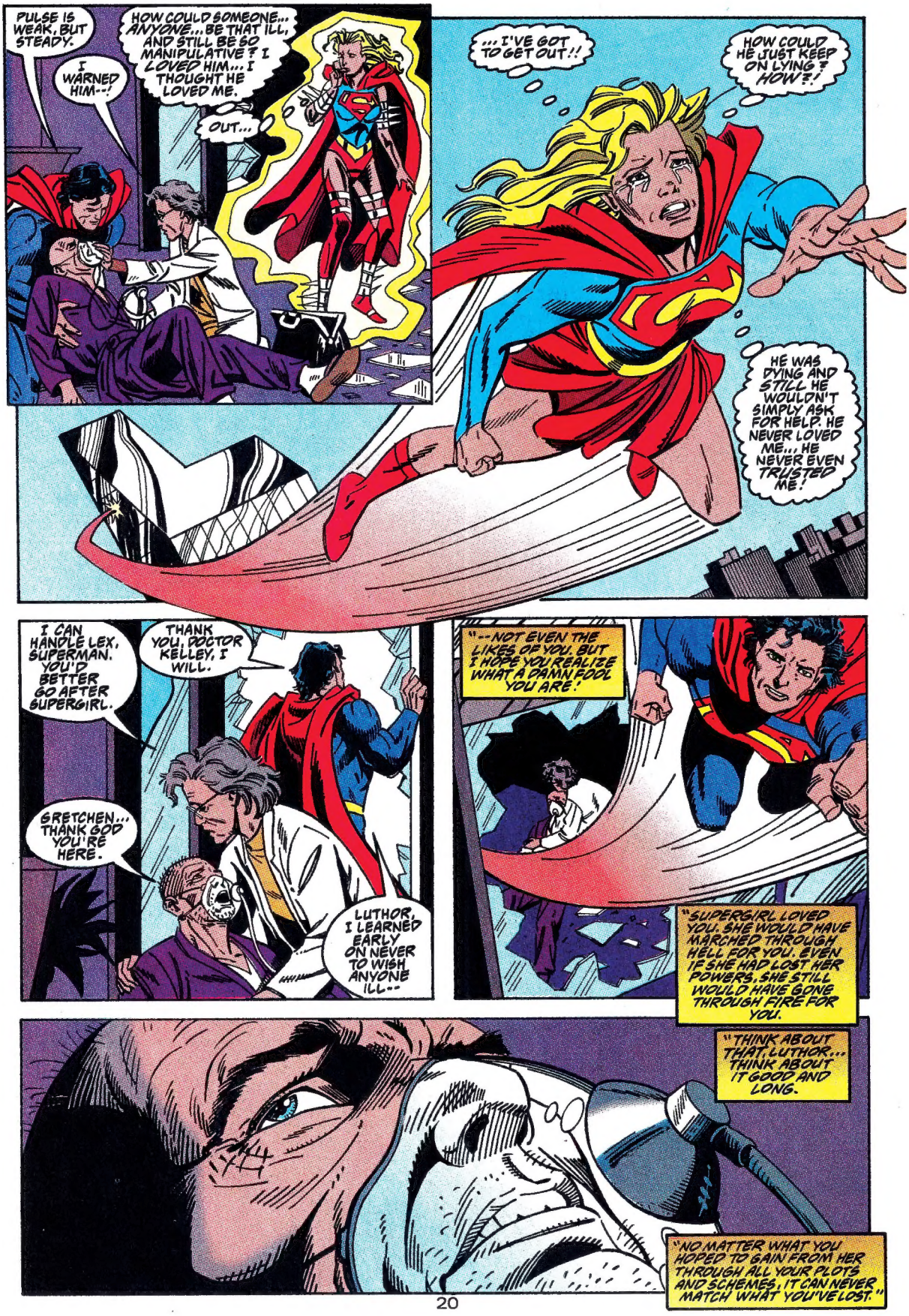
GET AWAY FROM HIM, SUPERMAN-- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DONE!
DON'T LET HIS SICK ACT FOOL YOU!
HE WAS CLONING ME! HE TRIED TO HAVE ME INCINERATED! POISONED!
SUPERMAN! ARE YOU LISTENING?! DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?!
OH, I BELIEVE YOU... COMPLETELY.
KELLEY... MUST CALL KELLEY...

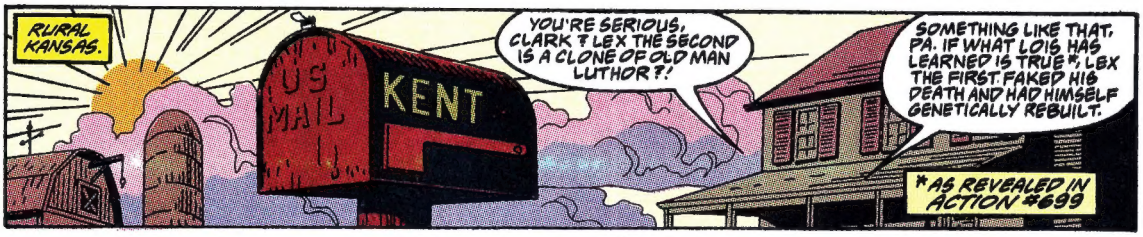

NOTHING LUTHOR DOES WOULD SURPRISE ME--HE'S CAPABLE OF ANYTHING--BUT THIS IS NO ACT. MY EYES AND EARS CAN'T BE FOOLED... THIS MAN IS GRAVELY ILL.
TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK AT HIM, SUPERGIRL, AND THEN TELL ME--

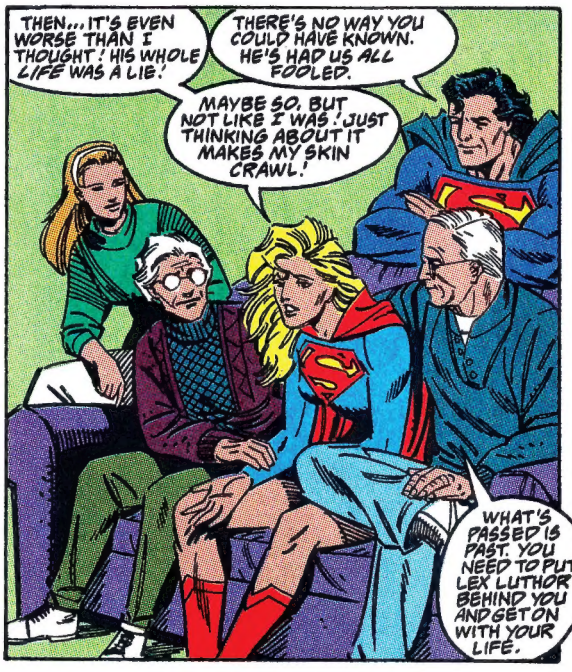
"--NO MATTER WHAT HE'S DONE--DO YOU REALLY WANT TO STRIKE A DYING MAN?"

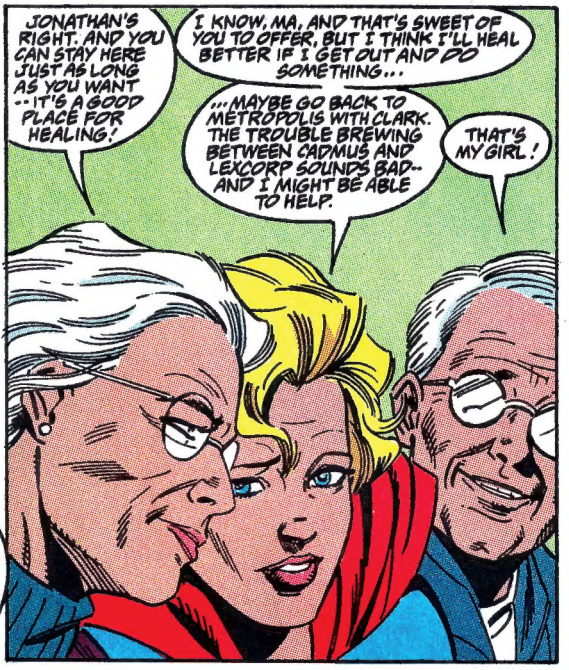

DYING?
OH MY GOD. HE... HE IS--!
B-BUT... HE KEPT LYING... KEPT USING ME. WHY--?!


I DON'T KNOW BUT IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE--!
LEX, I GOT YOUR CALL SIGNAL... LEX!
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?
YOUR PATIENT IS HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING, DOCTOR.

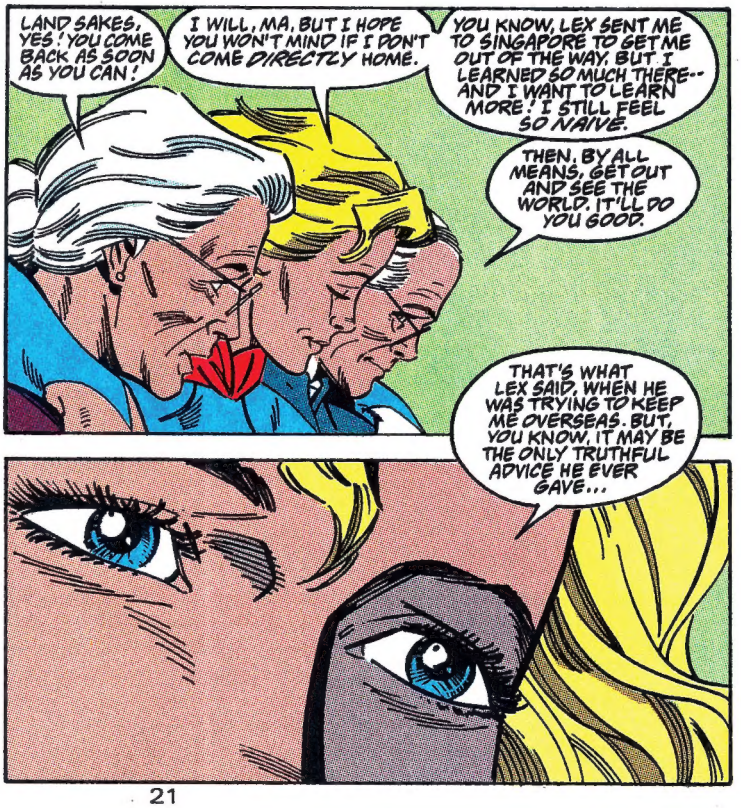

PULSE IS WEAK, BUT STEADY.
I WARNED HIM--!
HOW COULD SOMEONE... ANYONE... BE THAT ILL, AND STILL BE SO MANIPULATIVE? I LOVED HIM... I THOUGHT HE LOVED ME.
OUT...
...I'VE GOT TO GET OUT!!
HOW COULD HE JUST KEEP ON LYING? HOW?!
HE WAS DYING AND STILL HE WOULDN'T SIMPLY ASK FOR HELP. HE NEVER LOVED ME... HE NEVER EVEN TRUSTED ME!
I CAN HANDLE LEX, SUPERMAN. YOU'D BETTER GO AFTER SUPERGIRL.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR KELLEY, I WILL.
GRETCHEN... THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE.
LUTHOR, I LEARNED EARLY ON NEVER TO WISH ANYONE ILL--
"--NOT EVEN THE LIKES OF YOU. BUT I HOPE YOU REALIZE WHAT A DAMN FOOL YOU ARE!
"SUPERGIRL LOVED YOU. SHE WOULD HAVE MARCHED THROUGH HELL FOR YOU. EVEN IF SHE HAD LOST HER POWERS, SHE STILL WOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH FIRE FOR YOU.
"THINK ABOUT THAT, LUTHOR... THINK ABOUT IT GOOD AND LONG.
"NO MATTER WHAT YOU HOPED TO GAIN FROM HER THROUGH ALL YOUR PLOTS AND SCHEMES, IT CAN NEVER MATCH WHAT YOU'VE LOST."

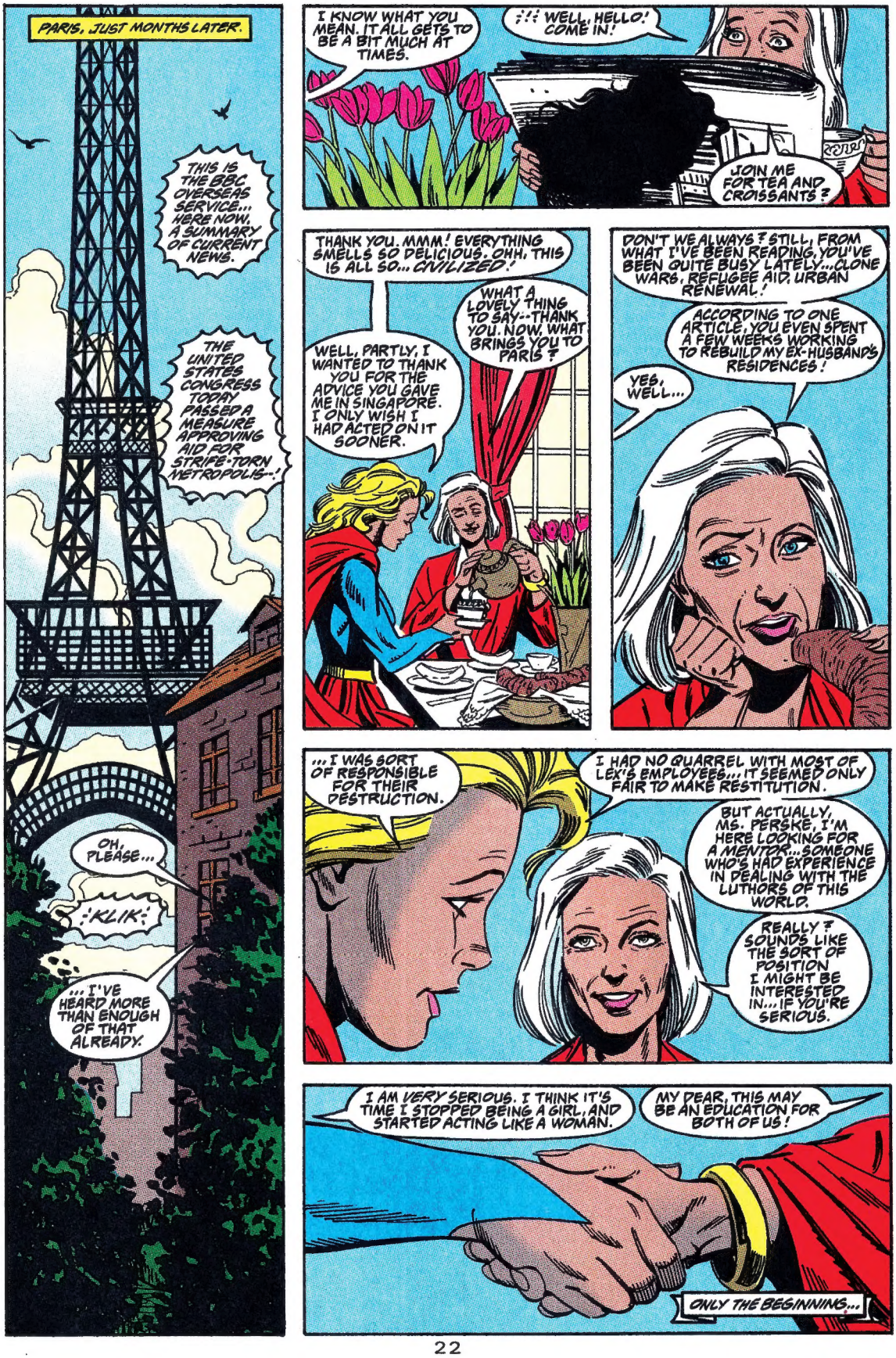

RURAL KANSAS.
US MAIL
KENT
YOU'RE SERIOUS, CLARK? LEX THE SECOND IS A CLONE OF OLD MAN LUTHOR?!
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, PA. IF WHAT LOIS HAS LEARNED IS TRUE*, LEX THE FIRST FAKED HIS DEATH AND HAD HIMSELF GENETICALLY REBUILT.
*AS REVEALED IN ACTION #699


THEN... IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT! HIS WHOLE LIFE WAS A LIE!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN. HE'S HAD US ALL FOOLED.
MAYBE SO, BUT NOT LIKE I WAS! JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL!
WHAT'S PASSED IS PAST. YOU NEED TO PUT LEX LUTHOR BEHIND YOU AND GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.


JONATHAN'S RIGHT. AND YOU CAN STAY HERE JUST AS LONG AS YOU WANT -- IT'S A GOOD PLACE FOR HEALING!
I KNOW, MA, AND THAT'S SWEET OF YOU TO OFFER, BUT I THINK I'LL HEAL BETTER IF I GET OUT AND DO SOMETHING...
...MAYBE GO BACK TO METROPOLIS WITH CLARK. THE TROUBLE BREWING BETWEEN CADMUS AND LEXCORP SOUNDS BAD-- AND I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
THAT'S MY GIRL!

WELL, IF YOU'RE SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT--! FRANKLY, I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP.
LUTHOR ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN ILL. THERE'S SOME SORT OF PLAGUE THAT'S STRIKING THE CADMUS CLONES, AND THE SITUATION IS GETTING TENSE.
JUST BE CAREFUL, SUPERGIRL... AND DON'T EVER FORGET WHERE YOUR REAL HOME IS!


LAND SAKES, YES! YOU COME BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN!
I WILL, MA, BUT I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF I DON'T COME DIRECTLY HOME.
YOU KNOW, LEX SENT ME TO SINGAPORE TO GET ME OUT OF THE WAY. BUT I LEARNED SO MUCH THERE-- AND I WANT TO LEARN MORE! I STILL FEEL SO NAIVE.
THEN, BY ALL MEANS, GET OUT AND SEE THE WORLD. IT'LL DO YOU GOOD.
THAT'S WHAT LEX SAID, WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO KEEP ME OVERSEAS. BUT, YOU KNOW, IT MAY BE THE ONLY TRUTHFUL ADVICE HE EVER GAVE...


PARIS, JUST MONTHS LATER.
THIS IS THE BBC OVERSEAS SERVICE... HERE NOW, A SUMMARY OF CURRENT NEWS.
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TODAY PASSED A MEASURE APPROVING AID FOR STRIFE-TORN METROPOLIS--!
OH, PLEASE...
:KLIK:
...I'VE HEARD MORE THAN ENOUGH OF THAT ALREADY.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. IT ALL GETS TO BE A BIT MUCH AT TIMES.
:!:! WELL, HELLO! COME IN!
JOIN ME FOR TEA AND CROISSANTS?
THANK YOU. MMM! EVERYTHING SMELLS SO DELICIOUS. OHH, THIS IS ALL SO... CIVILIZED!
WHAT A LOVELY THING TO SAY--THANK YOU. NOW, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO PARIS?
WELL, PARTLY, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THE ADVICE YOU GAVE ME IN SINGAPORE. I ONLY WISH I HAD ACTED ON IT SOONER.
DON'T WE ALWAYS? STILL, FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN READING, YOU'VE BEEN QUITE BUSY LATELY...CLONE WARS, REFUGEE AID, URBAN RENEWAL!
ACCORDING TO ONE ARTICLE, YOU EVEN SPENT A FEW WEEKS WORKING TO REBUILD MY EX-HUSBAND'S RESIDENCES!
YES, WELL...
...I WAS SORT OF RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION.
I HAD NO QUARREL WITH MOST OF LEX'S EMPLOYEES... IT SEEMED ONLY FAIR TO MAKE RESTITUTION.
BUT ACTUALLY, MS. PERSKE, I'M HERE LOOKING FOR A MENTOR...SOMEONE WHO'S HAD EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE LUTHORS OF THIS WORLD.
REALLY? SOUNDS LIKE THE SORT OF POSITION I MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN... IF YOU'RE SERIOUS.
I AM VERY SERIOUS. I THINK IT'S TIME I STOPPED BEING A GIRL, AND STARTED ACTING LIKE A WOMAN.
MY DEAR, THIS MAY BE AN EDUCATION FOR BOTH OF US!
ONLY THE BEGINNING...